

Remarks/Arguments:

The drawings have been objected to because they lack a brief description in each box. The drawings have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, claims 6 and 9 have been cancelled, and claim 15 has been added. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita (U.S. 5,384,853) in view of Fischer (U.S. 5,748,748) and Kanamori (U.S. 6,639,986). Also, claims 1, 9, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita in view of Tamora (U.S. 5,416,846) and Kanamori.

Finally, claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita in view of Tamora, Kanamori, and Nakao (U.S. 5,651,072).

Claims 3-5, 8, 13, and 14 were objected to, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten into independent form, claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled, claim 8 has been rewritten into independent form, and claims 9-12 have been cancelled.

Appln. No.: 09/807,706
Amendment Dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 1, 2005

MAT-8124US

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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LEA/bj

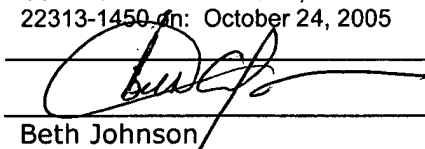
Enclosures: Replacement drawings (6 sheets)

Dated: October 24, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: October 24, 2005



Beth Johnson

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 through 13. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachments